

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A surgical device comprising:
a forceps member having at least one prong, said prong being formed as an electrode;
at least one electrical connector on said forceps member for operatively connecting said
5 prong to an electrical power source; and
a mechanical connector attached to said forceps member for removably fastening said
forceps member to a housing of an ultrasonic probe.
2. The surgical device defined in claim 1 wherein said probe has said housing at a
10 proximal end and a sheath at a distal end, said sheath being connected to said housing and
surrounding said probe at a distal end thereof, said forceps member being bent so that said prong
conforms at a proximal end to said housing and at a distal end to said sheath.
3. The surgical device defined in claim 2 wherein said forceps member includes a
15 proximal end portion having an axis, said prong having a distal end portion bent away from said
axis to lie along one side thereof.
4. The surgical device defined in claim 3 wherein said probe has an axis, the axis of said
probe and the axis of said proximal end portion of said forceps member defining a plane, said
20 prong including a first bend in said plane so that said distal end portion of said prong extends
away from the axis of said proximal end portion and towards the axis of said probe, said prong
including a second bend so that said prong extends out of said plane.

5. The surgical device defined in claim 4 wherein said prong includes a third bend generally towards a distal tip of said probe.

6. The surgical device defined in claim 5 wherein said third bend is located distally of said second bend, said second bend being located distally of said first bend.

7. The surgical device defined in claim 6 wherein said prong has a distal tip distally advanced with respect to an operating tip of said probe in a distal position of said forceps member relative to said housing.

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8. The surgical device defined in claim 4 wherein said prong has a distal tip located substantially laterally of an operating tip of said probe.

9. The surgical device defined in claim 4 wherein said second bend is located distally of said first bend.

10. The surgical device defined in claim 1 wherein said mechanical connector takes the form of a spring clip.

11. The surgical device defined in claim 10 wherein said spring clip has a slotted circular configuration.

12. The surgical device defined in claim 1 wherein said mechanical connector is adapted to movably fasten said forceps member to the housing of said probe.

13. The surgical device defined in claim 12 wherein said mechanical connector is adapted
5 to slidably fasten said forceps member to the housing of said probe so that said forceps member is alternatively movable in a distal direction and a proximal direction parallel to an axis of said probe.

14. The surgical device defined in claim 13, further comprising a tab or nub on said
10 forceps member at least in part for facilitating a sliding of said forceps member parallel to said axis.

15. The surgical device defined in claim 1 wherein said prong is protected with an electrically insulating material, said prong having a distal tip free of said insulating material.
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16. A surgical device comprising:
an ultrasonic probe;
a casing disposed about said probe;
a forceps member having at least one prong, said prong being formed as an electrode;
20 at least one electrical connector on said forceps member for operatively connecting said prong to an electrical power source; and
a mechanical connector attached to said forceps member removably fastening said forceps member to said casing.

17. The surgical device defined in claim 16 wherein said casing includes a housing at a proximal end and a sheath surrounding said probe at a distal end of said casing, said forceps member being bent so that said prong conforms at a proximal end to said housing and at a distal end to said sheath.

18. The surgical device defined in claim 17 wherein said forceps member includes a proximal end portion having an axis, said prong being bent away from said axis to lie along one side thereof.

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19. The surgical device defined in claim 18 wherein said probe has an axis, the axis of said probe and the axis of said proximal end portion defining a plane, said prong including a first bend in said plane such that a distal end portion of said prong extends away from the axis of said proximal end portion and towards the axis of said probe, said prong including a second bend so that said prong extends out of said plane.

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20. The surgical device defined in claim 19 wherein said prong includes a third bend generally towards a distal tip of said probe.

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21. The surgical device defined in claim 20 wherein said third bend is located distally of said second bend, said second bend being located distally of said first bend.

22. The surgical device defined in claim 21 wherein said forceps member is movably mounted to said housing by said mechanical connector, said prong having a distal tip distally advanced with respect to an operating tip of said probe in a distal or advanced position of said forceps member relative to said housing.

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23. The surgical device defined in claim 19 wherein said prong has a distal tip located substantially laterally of an operating tip of said probe.

24. The surgical device defined in claim 19 wherein said second bend is located distally
10 of said first bend.

25. The surgical device defined in claim 18 wherein said proximal end portion is disposed adjacent to said housing and a distal end portion of said prong is disposed adjacent to said sheath.

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26. The surgical device defined in claim 17 wherein said mechanical connector is adapted to movably fasten said forceps member to the housing of said casing.

27. The surgical device defined in claim 26 wherein said mechanical connector is adapted
20 to slidably fasten said forceps member to the housing of said casing so that said forceps member is alternately movable in a distal direction and a proximal direction parallel to an axis of said probe.

28. The surgical device defined in claim 27, further comprising a tab or nub on said forceps member for facilitating a sliding of said forceps member parallel to said axis.

29. The surgical device defined in claim 16 wherein said mechanical connector takes the
5 form of a spring clip.

30. The surgical device defined in claim 29 wherein said spring clip has a slotted circular configuration.

10 31. The surgical device defined in claim 16 wherein said prong is protected with an electrically insulating material, said prong having a distal tip free of said insulating material.

32. The surgical device defined in claim 16 wherein said prong is one of two prongs of said forceps member, said prongs being spring biased into an open configuration, said casing and
15 said forceps member having cooperating locking means for holding said prongs in a closed non-use configuration.

33. The surgical device defined in claim 32 wherein said forceps member is slidably mounted to said casing for shifting alternately in a distal direction and a proximal direction, said
20 cooperating locking means including a tab on at least one of said casing and said forceps member and a shoulder on the other of said casing and said forceps member for holding said prongs in said closed non-use configuration when said forceps member is slid in a proximal direction relative to said casing.

34. A medical method comprising:

providing an ultrasonic probe having a casing;

providing a forceps member having at least one prong formed as an electrode;

5 attaching said forceps member to said casing;

inserting distal ends of said probe and said forceps member substantially simultaneously into a patient;

thereafter energizing said probe with a standing ultrasonic compression wave to ablate tissues of a patient;

10 after the inserting of the distal ends of said probe and said forceps member into the patient, manipulating said forceps member to clamp tissues of the patient;

thereafter delivering a radio-frequency electrical waveform to said forceps member to cauterize the clamped tissues;

removing the probe and the forceps member from the patient; and

15 thereafter detaching the forceps member from the casing.

35. The method defined in claim 34, further comprising moving said forceps member relative to said probe after the inserting of said probe and said forceps member into the patient and prior to the delivering of the radio-frequency electrical waveform to said forceps member.

20 36. The method defined in claim 35 wherein the moving of said forceps member includes sliding said forceps member in a distal direction along said casing.

37. The method defined in claim 34 wherein the manipulating of said forceps member includes pressing said prong against said probe, said probe functioning in part as a forceps prong.